



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

No. 73

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 13, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN T. SALAZAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Charles E. Smith, Berea Baptist Church, Forest Hill, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, bestow the best of Your blessings upon the men and women of Congress and all who shall hereafter occupy these Halls. Grant them divine wisdom to lead our Nation with humility and discernment.

Order their steps as they work to strengthen our national resources. Preserve in them the time-honored values of faith, hope, and love that sustained our forefathers. Let their decisions inspire America so that we might shine as a beacon.

As we pause this week to pay homage to our fallen police officers, let us be thankful for the services of our law enforcement officers everywhere who risk their lives daily for the safety and protection of others.

Protect also our military members, fortifying them as they secure the blessings of liberty to us and our posterity.

Finally, unite us as one Nation under God that we may give You praise and glory always.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 38. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

WELCOMING REV. CHARLES SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of welcoming and recognizing Rev. Charles E. Smith, who just gave the opening prayer before Congress this 13th day of May of 2009. Rev. Smith is the pastor at Berea Baptist Church in Forest Hill, Texas. He is joined today by his wife, Gloria; his children; and many, many members of his church family and church congregation.

Rev. Smith is a native of Texas and a longtime resident of Fort Worth, where he and his wife live with their six children. A graduate of the Southern Bible Institute and of the University of Texas at Arlington, with a degree in architecture, Rev. Smith has served as a spiritual foundation in his community for over 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rev. Smith for his longstanding service to his parishioners and congregants in Forest Hill, Texas, in the Fort Worth area, and to members of his congregation whom he has so capably served. It is my pleasure to have Rev. Smith here with us today and an honor to represent him and his parishioners in the 26th District of the State of Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I hear stories every day from Hudson Valley families about the skyrocketing costs of health care. People tell me that having to deal with insurance companies leaves them being denied coverage for any reason, plausible or not. They talk about medical bills that are already too high before they have to pay even more to cover their children who just graduated from college and are now struggling to find work.

Families USA released a study this week showing that 3.5 million New Yorkers spend more than 10 percent of their pretax income on health care costs and almost 1 million New Yorkers spend more than 25 percent. This is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5489